

Appl. No.: 10/047,054
Amdt. dated 07/06/2005
Reply to Office action of February 14, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the following remarks, reexamination and reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of the rejections, and formal notification of the allowability of all claims as presented are earnestly solicited. As detailed in the Office Action mailed February 14, 2005, Claims 1-15 are pending, wherein Claims 1, 2, and 4 have been rejected in the Office Action. In response to the Office Action, the Applicants have rewritten Claims 3, 5, 11, and 14 in independent form, and submit that the claims now define patentable subject matter over the prior art cited in the Office Action. Accordingly, notice to such effect is requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Claim Objections

Claims 9 and 10 were objected to in the Office Action as being of improper dependent form. In response, the term "at least one measuring hole" has been amended to "at least one additional measuring hole" as suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, the Applicants request withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected in the Office Action as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,713,966 to Lippke. In addition, Claims 1, 2, and 4 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,789,431 to Typpo and U.S. Patent No. 4,311,037 to Gotchel.

In response to these rejections, the subject matter of Claims 2 and 3 have been incorporated into Claim 1, and Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled. In addition, Claims 5, 11, and 14 have been rewritten in independent form with respect to Claim 1. Accordingly, as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action under *Allowable Subject Matter*, amended Claims 1, 5, 11, and 14 are now allowable over the Lippke '966, Typpo '431, and Gotchel '037 references cited in the Office Action. As such, Claims 1 and 4-15 are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.

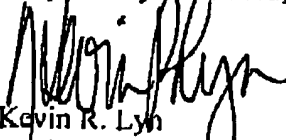
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Conclusion

In conclusion, for the reasons set forth above, the Applicant submits that all claims now pending are in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, notice to such effect is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest opportunity.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,


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Tracey S. Wright

7/6/05
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